

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6797

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CT

SUBJECT: GOCAR CABINET CHANGES

REF: A. BANGUI 0192 B. BANGUI A-077

1. ALTHOUGH ANTICIPATED QUARERLY CABINET RESHUFFLE DID NOT TAKE PLACE ON "SCHEDULE" IN JANUARY, PRESIDENT BOKASSA HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVEN PIECEMEAL CHANGES SINCE FEBRUARY 3 COUP ATTEMPT. THESE TOGETHER ARE TANTAMOUNT TO WHOLESALE CABINET REALIGNMENT. INVOLVED ARE CREATION OF THREE NEW GOVERNMENT POSTS, INCLUDING THE OFFICE OF A VICE PRIME MINISTER AND INTRODUCTION OF SEVERAL NEW FACES.

2. SINCE THE APPOINTMENTS CONTAINED REFERENCE (A) AND THE FEBRUARY 3 ATTEMPT ON BOKASSA'S LIFE, THE FOLLOWING MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE:

A. ANDRE DIEUDONNE MAGALA - MINISTER OF HEALTH, REPLACING ANDRE CHRISTIAN ZANE-FE TOUAM-BONA MEMBER OF LARGE BAYA TRIBE WHO WAS DEMOTED TO MINISTRY IN CHARGE OF STATE MOTOR POOL. APPOINTMENT CARRIES AUTOMATIC LOSS OF MILITARY RANK FOR MAGALE, LAST OF CAR GENERALS. MAGALE'S SELECTION IS VIEWED LOCALLY AS A COMBINATION OF SECURITY AND FACE-SAVING MEASURES BY BOKASSA. MAGALE WAS RANKING CAR MILITARY OFFICER WHEN SMALL GROUP

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OF MILITARY JUNIOR GRADE OFFICERS STAGED FEBRUARY 3 COUP. IN ANY

CASE MOVING MAGALE FROM THE BARRACKS TO THE CABINET WILL ENABLE BOKASSA TO KEEP A MORE WATCHFUL EYE ON A POTENTIAL RIVAL WHILE BENEFITTING FROM MJGALE'S YEARS OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AS HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTER.

B. LOUIS ALAZOULA -- MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF STATE ENTERPRISES, A NEW POSITION. A MEMBER OF ALMOST EVERY OTHER PREVIOUS BOKASSA CABINET AND UNIVERSALLY CONSIDERED TO BE A DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE ON BOKASSA, ALAZOULA WAS REHABILITATED IN DECEMBER FOLLOWING REMOVAL FROM CABINET AND HOUSE ARREST CUM IMPRISONMENT IN SEPTEMBER (BANGUI A-077). ALAZOULA IS ALSO SERVING AS ACTING MINISTER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND MINES REPLACING ALEXIS TCHEOUTI, A BANDA TRIBAL WHO REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN IMPRISONED, OSTENSIBLY FOR CONFISCATING DIAMONDS BUT PROBABLY ON SUSPICION OF COUP PLOTTING.

C. THEODORE BLAISE LAMINE -- MINISTER OF INTERIOR, A POST HELD BY BOKASSA HIMSELF SINCE REMOVAL OF ALAZOULA IN SEPTEMBER. A FORMER AID GRANTEE TO INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (IPA) IN WASHINGTON AND SINCE HIS RETURN NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES WHICH INCLUDES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL POLICE PERSONNEL MATTERS, LAMINE APPOINTMENT MEANS PROMOTION OVER HEAD OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NATIONAL POLICE PHILIPPE CROZON-CAZIN, ALSO AN IPA GRADUATE.

D. DIDIER MARCEL ADOPIA -- VICE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF COUNTRY'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY MESAN. THIS APPOINTMENT IS GENERALLY TAKEN TO REFLECT BOKASSA'S RECENT UNHAPPINESS WITH PRIME MINISTER ELISABETH DOMITIEN'S PERFORMANCE AND MAY REPRESENT ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT HER AUTHORITY AND INFLUENCE WITH PARTY FAITHFUL.

E. ALBERT BERIME -- SECRETARY OF STATE IN CHARGE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SUCCEEDING NEW VICE PRIME MINISTER ADOPIA WHO HELD POST FOLLOWING IMPRISONMENT OF ANTOINE GOALO LATE LAST YEAR FOR PTT'S DEPLORABLE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. FORMER PREFECT IN BOKASSA' NATIVE LOBAYE PROVINCE.

F. VINCENT WAKORA -- DROPPED FROM POSITION OF SECRETARY OF STATE IN CHARGE OF BUDGETARY RECEIPTS TO STATE CONTROLLER, REPLACEMENT NOT YET ANNOUNCED. MEMBER OF LARGE BAYA TRIBE.
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G. GEORGES BOKASSA -- PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR, A QUASI-CABINET POST. ELDEST SON OF BOKASSA WHO RETURNED TO CAR JUST AFTER ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT FROM BRUSSELS, WHERE HE HAD BEEN LIVING FOR NEARLY A YEAR SINCE ESTRANGEMENT WITH HIS FATHER.

3. COMMENT: LATEST GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS HAVE ARISEN EITHER DIRECTLY

OR INDIRECTLY FROM SHOCKWAVE OF COUP ATTEMPT ON FEBRUARY 3. COMMENT
THREAD IN ALL OF THESE APPOINTMENTS IS THAT THE INCUMBENTS ALL BELONG
TO THE M'BAKA TRIBE OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA. ONE IS HIS OWN SON;
ANOTHER, ALAZOULA, IS A BLOOD RELATIVE. THOSE DISMISSED WERE MEMBERS
OF ONE OR OTHER OF THE TWO MAJORITY TRIBES IN THE CAR, THE BAYA
AND THE BANDA, THE LATTER TRIBE THOUGHT BY BOKASSA TO HAVE HAD A
HAND IN THE COUP PLOT. NO M'BAKA CABINET MEMBERS WERE DISMISSED.
THERE MAY ALSO BE A PLITICAL PARTY ASPECT INVOLVED. BOKASSA HAS
APPARENTLY SENSED THAT THERE IS LESS THAN TOTAL UNANIMITY WITHIN
MESAN ON HIS HANDLING OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY AND OF RECENT EVENTS.
IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE, HE MAY FEEL A NEED TO HAVE HIS OWN MAN,
ADOPIA, TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE PARTY FAITHFUL AND AT SAME TIME TO
LIMIT THE INFLUENCE OF MESAN VICE PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER
DOMITIEU WITHIN THE PARTY. IN ADDITION, THE WORSENING FINANCIAL
SITUATION IN THE CAR MAY HAVE PLAYED A REOLE IN THESE APPOINTMENTS.
ALAZOULA WILL PRESUMABLY BE TASKED TO UNCOVER NEW SOURCES OF
GOVERNMENT REVENUE. HE HAS ALREADY MET WITH THE EXPATRIATE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY TO ASK THEM TO INTENSIFY THE TRAINING OF CENTRAL
AFRICAN CADRES IN THEIR BUSINESSES. UNDER HIS TUTELAGE THERE IS
LIKELY TO BE MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AND INTERVENTION IN THE
ECONOMIC AREA AND GREATER INTERNAL POLITICAL RESTRICTIONS.
GENERAL VIEW LOCALLY, HOWEVER, IS THAT MOST IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCE OF
LATEST CABINET RENEWAL IS THAT GOCAR POLICIES WILL NOW BE CARRIED OUT
FROM MUCH NARROWER POLITICAL BASE THAN IN PAST, THAT IS, FROM M'BAKA
TRIBE AND BOKASSA FAMILY.

4. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS WITH COMPLETE LIST OF NEW CAR GOVERNMENT.
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